

## Getting Started with DNR Garmin: Saving Data from GPS Devices

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University GIS Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series, "Essential ArcGIS Tutorial Series." These task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing specific tasks in GIS.

The DNR GARMIN program is a free application from the Minnesota DNR. The software is available from <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mis/gis/tools/arcview/extensions/DNRGarmin/DNRGarmin.html>

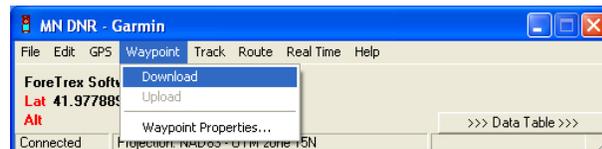
### 1. Connecting the Device

1. With the GPS unit turned off, connect it to your computer using the interface cable (USB or parallel port).
2. Turn on your GPS unit, and then open the DNR Garmin program. The Garmin program should then recognize your GPS unit.

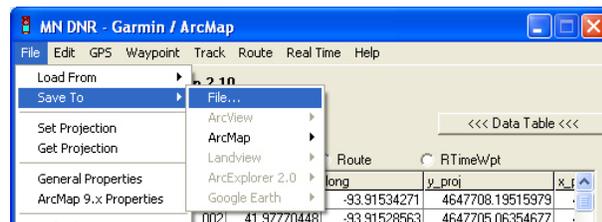


### 2. Downloading Waypoints as files

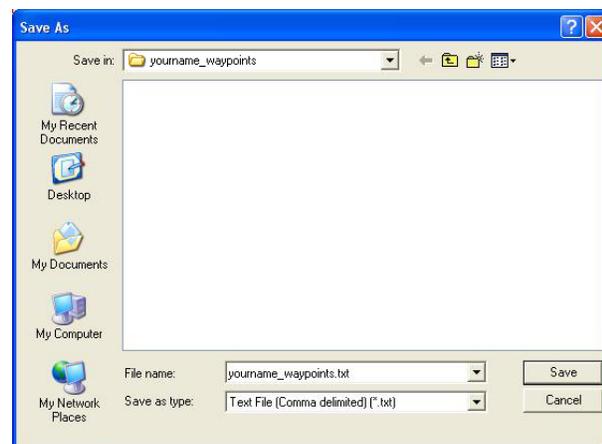
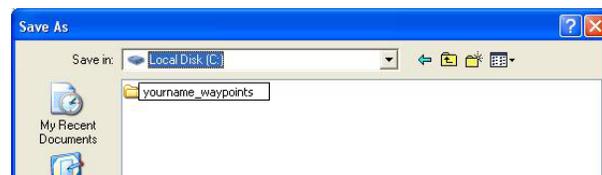
1. Select **Waypoint > Download**.



2. Click on **File > Save To > File...**

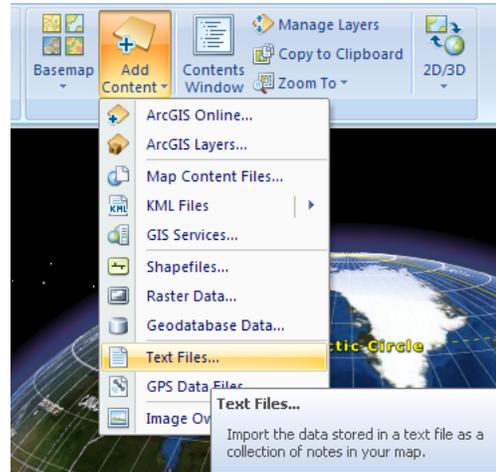


- Navigate to **Local Disk (C:)**, then create a folder to place the collected waypoints. Name it "**yourname\_waypoints**".
- Double click the newly created folder and in the **File name:** text box type "**yourname\_waypoints**".
- In the **Save as type:** dropdown box, select **Text File (Comma delimited) (\*.txt)** to store values as a table to be imported into ArcGIS Explorer.
- Click **Save** and then **OK** in the popup window.



### 3. Importing Data into ArcGIS Explorer

1. Start ArcGIS Explorer.
2. Select **Add Content** in the ArcGIS Explorer **Home** ribbon.

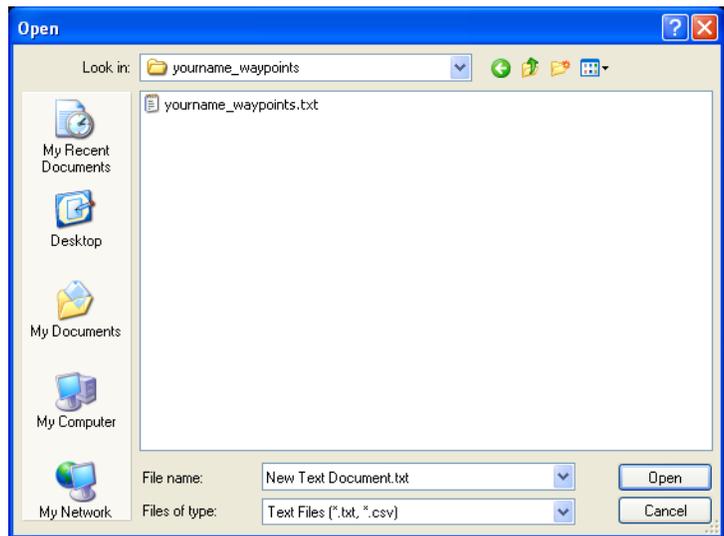


- Select **Text Files...** and navigate to the saved text file in **C:\yourname\_ waypoints** then click **Open**.

3. Pan and zoom to the GPS points using the navigator in the lower left hand corner of the map in ArcGIS Explorer.

4. In addition to Text File (Comma delimited), you can save your waypoints in the following data types:

- **ArcView Shapefile (Projected) (\*.shp)** is a format used by ArcMap and ArcGIS Explorer.
- **GPS eXchange Format (\*.gpx)** is a GPS format that can be opened using ArcGIS Explorer.
- **KML** files are a format primarily used by Google Maps and Google Earth, but can be loaded into ArcGIS Explorer.



### Contacts

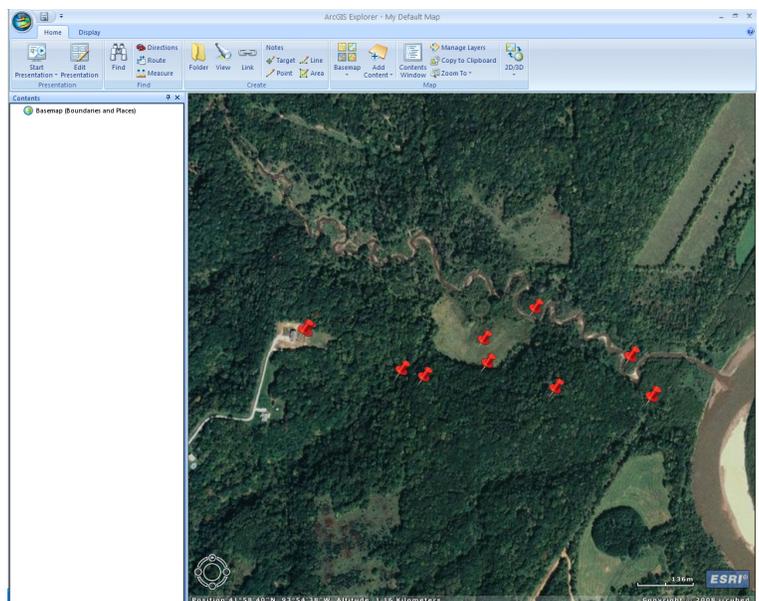
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This task sheet and more are available for free download at [www.extension.iastate.edu/gis](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/gis).



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